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MONDAY
DECEMBER 13, 1954

Jim Hunt came to say goodbye to me, as did Martin Herz. I am happy to hear of the change in Martin's orders, as he is now being assigned to the Political Section in the Embassy in Tokyo.

Harold Callender called on me this afternoon.

On my way home I stopped to see Michel Pasteau, who has been stricken with jaundice. I am devoted to him and we had a long talk about our experiences together during the war. He is now the head of a large company operating in Africa. He said he has always remained grateful for my having shanghaied him near Chartres when, as a French secret service agent, he had just received orders to proceed to London. It was mostly on his information, supplemented by Hemmingway, Lester Armour, Graveson and myself, that Le Clercq decided upon the routing and timing of his descent from Rambouillet on Paris. I never knew Michel's true identity until after we had arrived in Paris -- previously he passed as Monsieur Mouthard. It was only later he told me of the message from his mother which reached him in Abyssinia saying one of his brothers had been killed during the war, another had lost both legs and an eye, and she wanted him to come home and join the clandestine movement. This he did promptly and his services were invaluable.

Tonight Pauline and Philippe de Rothschild gave a dinner [redacted] for us, **with President and Madame Coty as the true honor guests.** I sat between Madame Coty and Alix de Rothschild. Madame Coty is [redacted] agreeable. Her father was a ship outfitter at Le Havre **where** she learned English as a girl and still speaks it well. She seems unassuming, lively and kind, and, I should think, would fill her position with great dignity. ~~Moreover, she has a decided~~ gusto for the good things of the table.

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The Rothschilds, perhaps because of Guy and the beautiful Alix, served an 1895 Lafite as well as their own 1900 Mouton Rothschild. There was little to choose between them, as they were both superlative, but I thought the Mouton an edge the better.

Philippe made a [redacted] flattering speech about us, to which I briefly responded. After dinner, three entertainers from Saint-Germain-des-Prés did a series of skits of great excellence. There were lots of genial spirits there, including Jean Cocteau, Marcel and Juliette Achard, Marie Louise Bousquet, André de Staercke, General and Madame Bethouart, Bourgès-Maunoury (who had just arrived from a wonderful woodcock shoot in Brittany), Guy Mollet (who had most generously come on our account), the Dillons, Jean Dom, Jacqueline Patenôtre, and a dozen other friends.

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